

THE BUCKEYE SECULAR UNION

Secretary's Report of a Successful Gathering at Marietta, Ohio of Fourth Annual Convention. New Officers Elected.

(By LOU LAWRENCE)

The Fourth Annual Convention of the Buckeye Secular Union met in Marietta, Ohio, on Sunday, September 9th, 1905. The morning session was devoted to the election of officers and other business, including the amendment of the constitution so as to dispense with the annual dues. The new officers are as follows: President, Mr. Geo. O. Roberts, of Dennison O.; First Vice President, Dr. T. J. Bowles of Muncie, Ind.; Second Vice President, Honorable A. W. Elson of Dennison, Ohio; Treasurer, J. W. White of Midvale, Ohio; Secretary, Miss Lou Lawrence of Barnesville, O.

The first subject for the afternoon session was The Fallacies of so-called revealed religion. Mr. A. C. Naragon of Canal Dover, to whom the subject had been assigned, being absent; Mr. J. Monroe Anderson of Muncie, filled his place in a manner which required no apologies for lack of preparation. The response to The Best Methods to increase Liberalism Locally by Mr. Walter J. Dutton of Elba was a paper filled with original ideas, stated in a clear, concise manner, a paper which when it was finished, left the hearer hungry for more. It is to be hoped that Mr. Dutton will furnish it to the Blade for publication. Mr. J. J. White not being present to respond to his number, Education versus Superstition, Hon. A. W. Elson, filled the vacancy with a speech of well-rounded periods delivered in the smooth, beautiful style of which the hearer cannot tire. Dr. T. J. Bowles, the grand old war-horse of Rationalism closed the program with a well-prepared denunciation of Blade readers that it is necessary to say only that the effort was one among his very best.

Following the program came several interesting short addresses by residents of Marietta and others. Among these, that of Rev. Albert Coil, pastor of the Unitarian Church of the city, cannot be passed without comment. He came back at the doctor and the doctor's profession in a manner which showed that his studies had not been confined to theology. With a style of oratory which reminded one of the rippling of a meadow brook in spring-time, he soothed the doctor's feelings while he lashed the medical profession right and left from the time of Aesculapius down to the present day. He made no defense of the mistakes of The Priesthood, but pointed out that the path of progress was the path for all. Not a Rationalist present but was charmed with the man and glad that in belief, he was so near them. Indeed, were The Priesthood, composed of Coil's the Buckeye Secular Union would soon find its occupation gone.

During the convention, Mrs. Helen M. Lucas of 321 Gilman street entertained largely; and on Sunday evening she gave a dinner at which some of the delegates had the pleasure of meeting many of Marietta's broad-minded people.

Next year the Union will meet in Columbus. While this union is supposed to be an Ohio state affair, it is hoped that many Rationalists in the adjoining states will join hands for the general good of the cause. These and all Ohio people are solicited to send applications to the secretary at Barnesville, Ohio.

The liberality of the daily press in giving mention of the meetings, which becomes a hopeful portent of the times may be seen from the following item taken from the Marietta Times. If Ohio could but have a dozen of such organizations scattered over the state, and then for other states to imitate her example, Freethinkers would be astonished at the rapidity with which our cause would spread. The article in full, reads:—

BUCKEYE SECULAR UNION HAS SESSION.

Interesting Addresses of the Annual Meeting of the Ohio State Organization.

The annual meeting of the Buckeye Secular Union was held in this city yesterday, at the home of Mrs. Helen M. Lucas, on Gilman street, West Side. It is a state organization which has for its purpose the "emancipation of men and women from superstition in all its forms," including those of religion. A number of the people prominent in the work in this and other states were present and the meeting was an extremely interesting one. The attendance was fair and in the estimation of those present this was one of the best sessions in the history of the Union.

An election of officers was held and it resulted in the choice of the following: President, George O. Roberts, of Dennison.

First Vice-President, Hon. A. W. Elson, of Dennison.

Treasurer, J. W. White of Midvale.

Secretary, Miss Lou Lawrence of Barnesville.

Most of the people from out of town

were entertained at the home of Mrs. Lucas. She gave a dinner party yesterday, and fifty or sixty people were present. It was a very enjoyable affair and some interesting discussion occurred.

Among those present who took a prominent part in the meeting were Dr. T. J. Bowles and J. Monroe Anderson, of Muncie, Ind. Dr. Bowles was the chief speaker at the meeting and Mr. Anderson also made an interesting address. W. J. Dutton and several Marietta people also addressed the gathering.

The visitors were much pleased with Marietta and with the hospitality and views of the people they met here.

PIETY AND PREVARICATION

The Ruling Passions of the Czar and This is Why the People of Russia so Distrust Him.

(By G. W. Foote in London Freethinker)

Heaven Russia is going along splendidly. Holy Russia is in the throes of political and social anarchy. Not even her greatest enemy could think of her at present without a feeling of comparison. Let us hope that she is nearing the darkest hour that precedes the dawn and that a new nation—strong, prosperous and self-governed—will arise from the ashes of the wicked and cruel old order of things.

The Czar called the Duma together, and dissolved it the moment it tried to be a reality. He has promised to call another Duma next year on a fresh basis, but the people have had enough of his promises. They understand that he is a liar; so they have a double reason for distrusting him. They have learnt to smile at the legend of the Little Father. They realize that all his fatherhood centres in the baby-boy who is to follow him as the Lord of all the Russians. That object is enough for his narrow nature. The welfare of the nation is a mere trifle in comparison. This miserable creature, clinging to his "divine right" in the name of God, is the ghastliest spectacle on this planet. The comedy of it has disappeared. It has been drowned up in the groans of dying men and the cries of outraged women.

Dissolving the Duma the Czar elected to rule by mere brute force. He and his minions started a reign of terror. Men were shot down in hundreds, Jews were butchered in thousands, unspeakable atrocities were the order of the day, and the prisons were filled with the leaders of popular opinion. Is it any wonder that violence is being answered by violence? Passionate men are provoked into retaliation. They carry on the war against the aggressive Autocracy without mercy. To kill one of its agents they are willing to sacrifice any number of innocent lives. But that is the nature of war. We know how the Boer children perished in South Africa. Let us not be surprised, then at the acts of the revolutionists in Russia. The Autocracy declared war on the nation, relying on the Army to keep order with rifles, maxims and artillery; and the revolutionists conduct the war on their side with knives, pistols, and bombs. Madness, of course, all round! But the primary criminals are those in high places who started the bloody game, and virtually challenged their opponents to follow their lead.

It is shocking to think of M. Stolypin's young daughter and little boy torn by that explosion. Poor children! They are not responsible for the wrongs of Russia. Yet, after all, their sufferings are only an episode in the frightful struggle which is going on in that unhappy country. We must not let our feelings run away with our reason. One drop must not blind us to the ocean of misery.

Nicholas has kissed and decorated the butchers of his people. But when he heard of the explosion at M. Stolypin's he said that words failed him to express his indignation. His own killings are executions; other people's killings are murders. That is how he looks at the situation. And it seems as though nothing would teach him better in this world. Well, the revolutionists may give him the opportunity of learning the lesson in another world. But we should prefer his being wise in time.

The Czar claims to rule by the grace of God. He is backed up in this by the Holy Church in Russia. God, however, says nothing. He lets people use his name and holds his tongue. Why doesn't he speak? Is he too busy? Has he had no news from Russia lately? What is the reason of his silence. An unmistakable word from him would set everything straight. What a chance! And, if he misses it, what a wasted opportunity!

Can any thinking person look at the state of Russia and still believe in the doctrine of Providence? Cardinal Newman said that he looked into the world for evidence of its divine government, it was like looking into a mirror without seeing the reflection of his face. The facts outside gave the lie to the belief within. And this is strikingly the case in Russia to-day. For surely no human father, not even the worst, would allow such quarrelling and bloodshed to go on

dent that there is more a battle between Autocracy and Revolution going on in his own family.

It is alleged by a Times correspondent that awful conditions prevail in Russia. According to this writer, the nation is falling into the abyss of bestiality. Hitherto the morality of the people has rested on trust in God and the Czar; all that is ended now, and morality is left without support; the result being a loosening of animal passions and the return of chaos. Very likely there is some truth in this. When morality, or anything else, is erected upon a wrong foundation, and the wrong foundation gives way—as all wrong foundations must in the long run—something unpleasant is bound to happen. There may be terrible ruin for a time, but the right principle will assert itself in the end, and Russia will ultimately find rest on a rational basis of order, which will allow the utmost scope for the spirit of progress.

The whole world is yearning for a fresh departure. The old landmarks are useless. The old principles are inadequate. The social idea must take the place of religious idea. Men must no longer love and serve God; they must love and serve Humanity. There lies the only possible salvation for modern society. It is not enough to aim at political and social changes: a new spirit is requisite. 'Behold, I make all things new,' is the true language of an ideal. And the new ideal will have to be taught in Christian countries as it is taught in Japan. It must be impressed upon the minds of children. It must surround the cradle, fill the school-room, and inspire all the young lives; it must be fortified by every domestic and public discipline; then it will become the polar-star of individual and social existence.

A NEW PRAYER

Dedicated and Directed to a New Deity Whose Presence and Power all Hope For.

(By A. LUTTERMAN)

Oh, God, our Father and our Almighty Dollar, we come to Thee in our humble submission, and pray Thee not to forsake us in our trials and tribulations of the present time; be with us and help us to overcome all reasonable investigation that we may be able to save ourselves from the disgrace of our transgressions. Let Thy word be preached in all corners of the earth, that the people may be disguised and not knowing what is going on the world, and we thereby become victorious in our pursuit. Oh, Lord, Thou knowest the truth that there are some people who do not believe in Thy word, give us Thy power to destroy them, let us purify the mail from all obscene literature, that comes from the press of ungodly people, Thou know their works, and their motives, give us strength to resist their evil influences. Almighty Dollar, redeemer and sanctifier, hide not Thy face in time of need, without Thee we can do nothing, but with Thee we are strong, with Thee we are able to make kings and queens with Thee we can buy the press and turn our most heinous crimes into charity, with Thee we can build churches and gather people from all corners of the earth and lead them in Thy truth, with Thee we can elect a President, that will obey our rules, and make lawyers in our favor but without Thee we are weak and must go down with shame. Oh, God, let not Thy name be taken from the face of the Dollar, for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory on this earth, but not in heaven. We trust in Thee and in Thee alone. Hide not Thy face for in Thy presents we are under Thy protection. We thank Thee for the past favors Thou hast bestowed upon us. Thou hast delivered us from all taxation and we thank Thee for all the free rides of the past and trust in You that those blessings will continue for ever.

We pray Thee, Oh Lord, and our redeemer to save us from the evil influences of Socialism, that they may not overpower us and destroy laws, but rather stand by us in the grand Republican party, and when all is done and our works drawn finally to a close, then take us home, and gather us in Thy kingdom and crown us with Thy glory forever.—AMEN.

LIGHT

(By BEN FRANKLIN BONNELL)

I asked our preacher where the light, Four days before the sun Came from; and he with holy spite, Said: "You are making fun." I said: "I only want to know, And so have come to you;" He said: "I know where you will go Before your course is through." He looked as though he knew the place, And gloried in the thought, That some day I would end my race On earth and find that spot. Long years have passed, the light I sought, Shines through all space and time And in its radiance honest thought, Has ceased to be a crime.

THE Y. M. C. A. RIVAL CONCERN

It is Now Charged With Diverting Money From The Pockets of Preachers And Growing in Disfavor.

(By JOHN F. CLARKE)

Rev. Dr. W. F. English, of East Windsor, Connecticut, says that ministerial salaries have declined 10 per cent. in the last 10 years, in the Congregational church. He attributes the decline to the Y. M. C. A. which diverts money from the pastors to other church work. He thinks that the tendency of the Y. M. C. A. is to spend more for literature and less for talk by the ministers. I have seen several attacks recently upon auxiliary branches of various churches. One preacher recommended the dissolution of the C. E., as it had accomplished its purpose, and had now become a hindrance and drag upon the church. It seems that some of these churches have sharpened knives to cut their throats with. The Helping Hand Societies have helped themselves, and the creature has become the master. It is the evolution of church business. The old methods are played out and the men are in possession. That the formation of such societies would result in a diversion of the gate receipts was a foregone conclusion. The Young People's Societies were organized to cajole young people into the church buildings with the idea of inducing them to take part in the regular church organization. In this a failure was met with. Young folks will attend the junior meetings when they have a voice and part in the administration of affairs, but when asked to come and listen to one man while he does all the talking, and pass out their good coin for no return, they say "No."

The Auxiliary Societies collect money for their own needs and perhaps a margin for graft, and they collect from the same people that the dear pastor has to ask to shell out for the cause of God. Some people think that if they pay to the one faction that they have done enough for the Lord and that causes the financial shoe to pinch. Churches are not automatic. They will not run without cash and plenty of it. The preachers will not save dear sinners for Christ unless some one passes the money lively. So there it is. When the Y. M. C. A. cuts a few more per cent. from the preachers' salaries Rev. Dr. English and Rev. Dr. American will jump from under and let God run His own salvation business. It takes money to serve the Lord. Enticing the young to come to church and sing and talk and get up pious is all right, but it does not always mean that such young folks are going to fill up pews on Sundays, and fill up cash boxes at various times. For a young lady to join a Christian Endeavor Society and endeavor to love Jesus and also endeavor to make some young man love her, is fine, but when the marriage is over there is generally a double vacancy in the Society. Then the President of the Society calls upon the workers to make good the lapses, just like the Insurance Companies do. Covering lapses is not such easy work and usually results in robbing Peter to pay Paul. The C. E. of the Holy Faith Church will induce a few members of the C. E. of the Shining Angel Church to leave the Shining Angels and train with the Holy Faith gang. This causes the Shining Angels to say a few beautiful things in the Christ Ethic line to the Holy Faith Saints.

There is likely to be new war in Heaven and John Milton had better come back and write the latest war news. If The Auxiliaries chuck the preachers out, he will have lots of fallen angels to make devils of and good ones too.

That Presbyterian Bank

I remember when I used to go to Sunday School how nice unctuous gentlemen were invited to address the children, and how they all said that certain business men or bankers had told them that they would not employ boys that did not attend Sunday School. That boys who paid respect to Sunday School lessons and loved the church were always to be trusted. They always knew of some boys who were opposed to Sunday Schools and they all grew up and turned out to be road agents, bandits or else killed some one in a saloon brawl. Years have passed and I see accounts of bankers who were noted for their piety undermining the financial institutions that they were running. There was a Baptist preacher out in Southern Illinois, last Spring, who wrecked 3 banks and committed suicide. There was the great Wagman, leading layman of the Catholic Church in America, made ducks and drakes of other people's fortunes in Washington, and died after being exposed. Then comes Stensland of Chicago, known for his great religious character. Down he goes and down goes the prospects of 20,000 depositors. Then comes Banker Wipple, of Philadelphia, \$10,000,000 swiped by collusion with a few sharpers. Hipple was treasurer of the Presbyterian Church Union. Noted for his Christianity. Set up a poor woman in fashionable school at Bryer Mass. and spent \$60,000 on her school. Took great interest in the school marm and the school, paid daily visits. Kind heart-

ed philanthropist. Upholder of Sunday Laws. Put a pistol in his mouth and was gathered to his fathers.

He was the kind of a man that people like. They begged him to invest their money for them. His Christian honesty was bond enough. Now, they are kicking themselves. They have paid for their lesson and I hope that it will do them good. Was a family lived about this neighborhood. All religious but one boy. This boy, Ben put to work in an enameling establishment. Boss of the plant very religious, insisted upon all employees attending Sunday School every Sunday. Ben refused was discharged, told the boss to go to hell. Went to Brooklyn and made a fortune and is a respected citizen. Does not attend church. The rest of the family still religious. Not one of them worth a damn, financially or personally. The owner of the enameling plant now a trust magnate and not liked by community. Still religious and still insisting upon employees attending divine worship. Few employees rise above \$6.00 a week workmen. Wise thing, religion, to keep employees quiet while the chains of slavery are forged around them.

Ben has not forgotten his friends and has helped to put some of them upon their feet. These are only a few samples of what religion does for men and what unbelief leads to. If our friend will look about them they will see and hear of just such cases. Write them up. They open the eyes of some of the dupes of religionists. Truth is mighty and will prevail.

THE GREAT MENACE OF SOCIALISM

Thinking Men Should Cease to Firt With it or Socialism May Overwhelm us Unforbidden.

(By WILLIAM H. BARNHART)
(From Liberal Review)

Rarely, perhaps never, has a great social development paused in its oncoming until all the people awaited it with outstretched arms. Illustration; the approach of modern Socialism.

Again, great movements seem to proceed by their own insensate energy, unguided by any conscious agency, as does the wave of the sea. Illustration; the onrushing Socialism.

Again, the foes of a new order have ever been unwitting midwives at its birth. Illustration; the tremendous impetus being given to Socialism to-day by greedy, thieving Individualists, trust magnates and their like, every one of whom abhors Socialism but does more to advance its cause than do a score of its friends who openly preach its doctrines.

In theory there is nothing in a name and indeed there should be nothing. But in practice there is much in a name. All us humans are too much like the bull that flies into a rage at the sight of red, though it be only a red bucket containing his delectable supper. Fortunes have been confiscated, reputations blasted, life blotted out and the progress of the world stayed as penalties for sounding words. Who that has a memory forty years old cannot recall the odium attached to the noble words 'abolition' and 'fugitive,' even in the free Northland? And to-day, in this scientific century, what hosts of excellent people detest the word "science," "rational," "reason," "free thought," "liberal." In my youth I attended the funeral services for a citizen of my town, whose appalling condition, as it was pictured by my impressionable mind, made a fadeless mark upon my memory. I that day resolved that however vile and degraded I might become in after life, I would never become "liberal." Thus are ideas suppressed and mere sounds used to prejudice the mind of the child and to inflame the adult, much as to color red infuriates the bull. Socialism is a good, wholesome word meaning, essentially, "brotherhood." But, in blind hatred of the word, thousands forget that the principle it embodies has given us the great fraternal orders, the post-office schools, the benevolent agencies, the hospitals, the asylums, and innumerable statutes enacted in pursuit of a square deal for everyone, even the poorest and humblest citizen.

And yet it seems to me it would be a deadly error to organize society upon the Socialist basis, as that basis is laid down by Socialist propagandists. There seems to be more than one fatal defect in the programme which fail of adequate treatment by all Socialists whom I have read or heard. One of them, in my unimportant judgment the greatest, is the undervaluation of the part played in our industrial organization by employment. As I see it, the employment of the people overtops all such principles as "wages," "capital," "rent," "interest," "private ownership," "monopoly," "production," "profit," "wastes," "competition," "hours," and all other principles used as firebrands by the Socialist reformer. Industrial stagnation and consequent poverty never occur accompanied by abundant employment. All things else may be wrong and a degree of comfort will be

widespread if employment be plentiful; all things else may be right and widespread suffering will prevail if employment be scarce. Therefore, a new order which at every turn necessitates the decrease of employment is not to be thought of as a substitute for the present industrial system, admittedly very imperfect, but whose glory is that it affords greater and more diversified employment to the world's teeming workers, and consequently a wider diffusion of comfort than was ever before enjoyed in the world's history. I must not be understood to defend the unjust accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, nor to maintain the absurd proposition that the worker receives his full share of the wealth that is produced by his assistance. But I do make the assertion that under our present imperfect system there is not a family in the United States, whose breadwinner is capable and in good health, who may not honestly have abundance to eat and wear carpets on the floors, pictures on the walls, a piano in the home, and the home paid for, by obeying absolutely the laws of moral and the laws of economics. Why? Simply because with the people properly distributed, there is employment for everyone that is able and capable to work, on account of our glorious natural resources and our innumerable and widely diversified avenues of employment, the latter being due almost wholly to science. What has Socialism to offer in place of our multiplicity of employment? With the utmost frankness it proposes to destroy what it terms needless occupations, for example, insurance, commercial traveling, advertising and real estate agencies and kindred callings. Also, what it terms wasteful expenditures, such as parallel railroads and trolley lines, rival steamship lines, express, telegraph and telephone lines, multiplied shops, factories, mills, stores, banks, hotels, newspapers, etc., etc. But it proposes no new occupations and no extension of old ones, save the federal service. It proposes no disposition of the millions deprived of the means of earning their share of the bounty of the earth and industry, save the fantastic Arabian Nights' dream of reducing the working hours of everybody to about four hours each day, leaving all to idle away or otherwise dispose of the remaining six hours per day, according to each individual taste. Socialism may overwhelm us unbidden. I do not see how thinking men can flit with it, so long as it cannot show a programme the foundation of which is full and remunerative employment for all. But that is just what thousands of thinking men are doing. More's the pity!

Willing to Pay \$2 a Year.

Ingleside, Texas.—As I am no good at soliciting subscribers I will try and help the Blade a little again by sending you \$2 to advance my subscription another year from date and the other dollar to pay for the subscribers that I did not get, but it will help a little anyway. I am willing and will pay \$2.00 a year as long as the Blade and I live, but at the death of either of us this agreement is canceled.—I. S. FOWLER.

METHODS:

The Organization into a Political Body.

OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO WOULD MAINTAIN THE PURELY SECULAR CHARACTER OF THIS GOVERNMENT.—

1. By defending the freedom of speech and press in local courts and before legislative bodies.
2. By likewise resisting all encroachments of ecclesiasticism upon the State.
3. By uniting with and assisting individuals and societies of whatever creed or party, when unjustly persecuted for religious and political expression or belief.
4. By preventing the corrupt reign of monopoly and partisanship through Direct Legislation by the Initiative and Referendum.
5. By advocating equal rights and justice to all-giving women an equal voice in all governmental affairs, and by all other practical and legal methods, maintaining personal liberty, just economic conditions, and all other essentials upon which a secular and free government must rest.

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